**NEWTON NORTH SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING – MINUTES**

Monday April 7th, 2014

8th meeting in room 103

**1. Attendees of School Council members**

Jen Price, NNHS Principal & Co-Chair

Jo Doherty, parent representative & Co-Chair

Chris Alberg, teacher representative

Laura Holt, parent representative

Lynne LeBlanc, PTSO representative

Jean Wood, parent representative

Sally Brickell, PTSO representative

Bev Spencer, community representative

Irene Golden, student representative

Sonya Jampel, student representative

Max Kozlov, student representative

Jackie Gelb, parent representative

There was a T2 meeting held the same evening so Melissa Hanenberger was only able to attend part of this meeting. And Patricia Muumba was unable to attend as she was on an out of town school trip.

**2. Acceptance of minutes from the last meeting – Wednesday March 5th, 2014**

The motion was proposed & seconded & the minutes were passed by unanimous vote. These minutes will be posted on the School Council website – action discharged.

**3. Opportunity for public comment**

There were no members of the public present at this meeting.

**4. T2 program**

**(i) Update on Junior cohort - Melissa**

In a break from the T2 meeting Melissa Hanenberger, Sarah Hoffman, Radna Grein & Kelly Murguia came to the SC meeting to provide an update on both the junior & senior cohorts. Of the class of 2014, 12 of 13 students have been accepted to one or more colleges with the final student yet to hear from 3 applications. This evenings meeting presented the class of 2014 with information about community college & how to compare financial aid packages. While the class of 2015 cohort had a guest speaker on financial aid & the importance of knowing your Expected Financial Contribution.

There is a plan tomorrow for some of the students to visit Northeastern.

NNHS staff report they are seeing lots of interaction between the mentees & mentors outside of these monthly meetings.

NNHS staff indicate their wish in the future to recruit mentors earlier than in previous years. They are planning to hold an open house in October 2015 &

also to address parents of current seniors at Senior Parent night held in May.

Kelly presented a draft of an update T2 newsletter which she agreed to augment with details of the demographics of the mentors. Kelly will publish these newsletters & put them at the front office for anyone in SC who will be sending out funding request letters to include them in their packet. This covers the action listed separately under agenda item 4.

**(ii) Progress of funding possibilities**

Applications to 6 foundations identified & investigate TripAdvisor – Jackie

Jackie circulated for comment a revised covering letter for funding requests to the sent from Jen. SC members were asked to send Jackie any comments & for Jackie then to send Jen a final version of the covering letter & all the contact details for the 6 selected foundations by Friday April 11th. Jen will then submit the funding requests from her office.

**Ongoing action – Jackie to investigate TripAdvisor**

Jean reported thatthe Barr Foundation only give to Boston based organizations & therefore is not a funding source we are able to pursue.

Sally reported that the Nellie Mae foundation focuses on funding projects which affect systems change & do not support programs at individual schools & therefore is not a funding source we are able to pursue.

Lynne reported her investigation of the Jack Kent Cooke foundation is ongoing.

Jen confirmed that Elaine Sterzin has submitted a funding request on behalf of the T2 program to Bank of America & Eastern Bank & it is anticipated we should hear in June.

**(iii) Completion of college information sheets – Laura, Jackie, Sally, Jo, Bev, Patricia, Chris, Max, Sonya & Irene – all outstanding**

Jo reminded those identified above to complete their assignment. Admissions offices need to be contacted to review information collected. If no response is received despite repeated requests this should be noted on the sheet. Then each college needs to be assigned as Tier 1, 2 or 3 by the person completing the information. Once this is done please submit the information to Jo for collating.

**5. Update on Staff tending ideas**

Progress on staff photo directory – Jo

This is an ongoing effort - Jo to liaise with Lisa Mazzola to work towards producing this directory for the 2014/15 school year.

**6.   Update of PTSO business to School Council – Sally & Lynne**

Sally & Lynne identified an issue currently generating much heated debate within the PTO Council concerning the treatment of equity, which is applicable only at the elementary school level. ‘Equity’ is the term that identifies the way a PTO can fund an elementary school & which carries a capped dollar limit. The current exception to this is technology, which has existed outside of this equity cap. Current debate concerns whether to bring technology fund raising under the umbrella of equity. A recent ‘Spotlight on the English department was successful. Also the recent 8th grade visiting evening where it is estimated approximately 75% of 8th graders & their parents together with those from private school came to visit Newton North.

Operation Bold Paint, an initiative under Newton Serves, enables classrooms to be painted at Newton North. Volunteers are always sought & welcome.

This year the PTSO’s EdEx check writing funding campaign will focus on supporting mental health initiatives for the next 3-5 years enabling presenters & speakers to be brought into the NNHS community.

Celebration, the NNHS sponsored after Prom party for seniors, is well under way & looking for parent volunteers.

**7.  AOB & Next meeting date**

**AOB - elections for 2 seats available on SC for 2014/15 school year**

Sally & Lynne confirmed they have established a timetable for elections to be run by the PTSO to fill the 2 SC seats vacant at the commencement of the 2014/15 school year.

Members at the meeting discussed whether to make special provision in the by laws for members wishing to stand for School Committee elections. While it was decided to leave the matter to the integrity of the individual, considered debate led to the decision to establish the position of an ‘alternate’ at any spring held SC elections. This ‘alternate’ would be ready to back fill any SC seat that would happen be become vacant before its team finished.

It was agreed for Jo to draft up any necessary amendments necessary to the SCs existing by laws & to circulate these via email for an electronic vote. SC by laws require a vote yielding 75% of attending voting members in order to change SC by laws.

**Next meeting: Monday May 5th at 7pm**